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TO BREMER/RODMAN ABOARD 86970
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T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY VIA 86970 WH41396

TOHAK238

PLEASE DELIVER TO BREMER/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY
DELIVER IN SEALED ENVELOPE : KEEP NO COPIES. DESTROY TAPE.

MAY 18, 1974

TO: JERRY BREMER/PETER RODMAN FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

1. BY SEPARATE MESSAGE YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED A BALTIMORE SUN ARTICLE REPORTING THAT A FEBRUARY 28, 1973 TAPE HAS THE PRESIDENT SAYING YOU ASKED FOR WIRE TAPS. THERE IS A SIMILAR ARTICLE IN THE MIAMI HERALD, WHICH I WILL ALSO SEND YOU.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS THIS MORNING, ZIEGLER WILL SAY THAT, "DR. KISSINGER TESTIFIED FULLY AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS ON THIS MATTER AND HIS TESTIMONY IS COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH THE FACTS. THE WRITTEN RECORDS PERTAINING TO THIS MATTER WERE REVIEWED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION BY DESIGNATED MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE." RON WILL REFUSE TO COMMENT ON THE LEAK OF WHAT THE PRESIDENT WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID.

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

3. THE TEXT OF THE MATERIAL AS CONTAINED IN THE BALTIMORE SUN ARTICLE IS GENERALLY ACCURATE IN ITS THRUST. IT IS A VERY BAD TAPE AND MUCH OF THE CONVERSATION IS INAUDIBLE. THE PRESIDENT DID SAY, "SURE, AND THEN...HENRY'S STAFF... HE INSISTED ON BUGGING (BLANK) (PROBABLY LAKE) AFTER HE JOINED MUSKIE'S STAFF. (UNINTELLIGIBLE) I ASSUME IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED (UNINTELLIGIBLE) AT LEAST, I KNOW IT NOT BECAUSE I KNOW IT... I KNOW THAT HE ASKED THAT IT BE DONE AND I ASSUME THAT IT WAS."

4. THIS PASSAGE WAS AT THE TAIL END OF A CONVERSATION WITH DEAN WHICH BEGAN WITH A DISCUSSION OF HENRY BRANDON AND THE FACT THAT HE WAS BEING TAPPED WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION CAME IN. HALPERIN'S NAME WAS MENTIONED AND THEN THE DISCUSSION TURNED TO JOE KRAFT AND THE FACT THAT HE WAS BEING BUGGED BECAUSE HE WAS WORKING WITH THE FRENCH.

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5. THIS PART OF THE TAPE HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED ANDMNT IS NOT INTENDED THAT IT BE RELEASED. FRED RUZHARDT LET ME READ IT BUT WOULD NOT LET ME MAKE A COPY OF IT. THEREFORE, PLEASE DO NOT REVEAL ITS CONTENTS.

6. THE TAP WAS ACTUALLY INITIATED ON TONY LAKE ON MAY 13, 1970. LAKE DEPARTED THE STAFF ON JUNE 26, 1970 AND RETURNED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. I DO NOT AT THE MOMENT HAVE THE DATE OF HIS RESIGNATION FROM STATE. THE PRESIDENT'S LITERAL STATEMENT IS, THEREFORE, OBVIOUSLY INACCURATE.

WARM REGARDS.

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#2685

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